the PTC. In the absence of this kind of a security arrangement, it will be difficult for any developer to take up the mega projects which are likely to be very low tariff projects due to the various concessions and conditionalities attached to them and no single State will be in a position to purchase the entire output.

(d) The position has already been clarified in reply to the above.

(e) No, Sir. Considering the security mechanism for these projects and also the fact that they are being linked to reforms, it is unlikely that the PTC. would result in a potentially sick unit.

Cut on Plan and Non-Plan expenditure

1442. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cut imposed by Government on (i) Plan and (ii) Non-Plan expenditure during the year 1998-99;

(b) the main objectives behind imposing these cuts; and

(c) how far Government have been successful in achieving these objectives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No cut was imposed on Plan expenditure during the year 1998-99. However, to effect economy in non-plan expenditure, a 10% cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure was imposed. The results achieved through such cuts have been reflected in the Revised Estimates of 1998-99 presented to the Parliament alongwith BE 1999-2000 on 27th February, 1999.

Cases referred to Debt Recovery Tribunals

1443. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) by Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, Bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the amount of dues involved in these cases; and

(c) the number off cases disposed of and the amount of dues recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) A Statement showing the position of number of cases referred to Debts Recovery Tribunals by Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank during the years, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998, amount of dues involved in these cases, number of cases disposed off and amount of dues recovered is given below:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Indian Overseas Bank	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of cases filed/transferred	13	101	76	99	401
Amount of dues involved	121.53	70.27	42.95	59.57	334.82
No. of cases disposed off	—	—	8	20	49
Amount of dues recovered	—	—	0.13	3.79	8.40

Indian Bank	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of cases filed/transferred	—	180.	249	558	1520
Amount of dues involved	—	97.34	131.09	489.52	1803.79
No. of cases disposed off	—	—	7	20	184
Amount of dues recovered	—	—	—	3.34	8.54

Corruption in preventive wing of Calcutta Customs House

1444. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any communication from an Hon'ble M.P. was received on 18.11.96 regarding alleged rampant corruption, etc. in the preventive wing of Calcutta Customs House;

(b) whether any reply was given on the action taken;

(c) if so, the details of the reply and action taken; and

(d) if no action was taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A copy of the reply sent to Hon'ble M.P. by the Finance Minister on 1.3.99 is enclosed as statement. *(See* below)

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

D.O.F. No. 524/2/97/VIP

1 MAR., 1999

Dear Shri Balanandan,

Kindly refer to your letter No. 3/EB/ F-15 dated 2.1.1999 regarding rampant corruption and mismanagement in the Preventive wing of Calcutta Customs House. The allegations as raised in your complaint dated 18.11.1996 have been looked into.

As regards allegations of corruption and nepotism, unless specific datails are given with necessary supporting evidence, it would be difficult to investigate them. Nevertheless efforts were made to verify the allegations made in your letter dated 18.11.1996 wherein you had cited a few examples as to how laws and rules are being flouted by the Administration. Specifically you had mentioned that a superintendent was in police custody for about 10 days on a murder charge and got bail from the High Court. In this connection, it is ascertained that one Shri P. Mukherjee, Superintendent, was arrested on 22.8.1995 by Police as co-accused in a criminal case. He was placed under deemed suspension from the date of his arrest. However, on orders of Calcutta High Court he was allowed to join duty. Subsequently, it is learnt that he was exonerated by the SDJM, Serampore.

You had also mentioned about one Shri Ganapati, who was allegedly involved in a smuggling case and got subsequently promoted as Superintendent. In this connection, it is ascertained that he was promoted as Sueprintendent prior to his being charge-sheeted. He has been served with a charge-sheet on 9.12.1996 and disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against him.